

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were previously cancelled and claims 16-56 were added in a Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the Application on December 5, 2003 (a copy of which is provided for the Examiner's convenience). As such, claims 16-56 are pending in the present Application.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,146.

Claims 1-15 were cancelled in the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 5, 2003. As such, this rejection is moot.

OTHER CLAIMS

Claims 16-56 are pending. These claims are fully supported by the parent application and add no new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-56 are allowable.

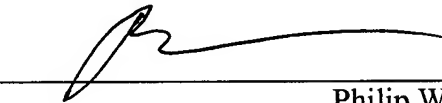
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks and with the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition of allowance and therefore their allowance is requested. If any of the claims require further clarification or discussion, the undersigned is readily available at (415) 772-1200.

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